

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

New claims 10-13 are added to restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. Claims 14-15 are also added. No new matter is added.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Hoshikawa U.S. Patent 6831700 ("Hoshikawa").

Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections for at least the following reasons.

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 application of International patent application PCT/EP00/11920 having an international filing date of 29 November 2003 (see attached "Notice of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 . . ."). Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. § 365, the present application claims the priority benefit of International patent application PCT/EP00/11920, and therefore has an effective U.S. filing date for purposes of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of 29 November 2000. Meanwhile, Hoshikawa has an earliest effective U.S. filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of 4 December 2000.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Hoshikawa does not qualify as prior art with respect to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections based on Hoshikawa be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS 10-15

By this amendment, Applicants add new claims 10-15. Claims 10-13 simply

restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. Claims 14-15 recite that the line memory(ies) of claims 8 and 9 respectively are dual port devices. Applicants submit that all of these claims are patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as for the claims from which they respectively depend.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-15 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 29 March 2005

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